

OCC HAS REVIEWED

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

In reply refer to: PO/PCD 1002

TO : General Counsel

DATE: 6 April 1951

FROM : Chief of Procurement

SUBJECT: Proposed Elimination of Legal Review of Standard Supply Contracts

1. Following up discussions with you and members of your staff, your approval is requested to dispense with the current practice of having routine standard supply contracts reviewed by your office.

2. A number of considerations have led to this request. As a matter of actual experience, few, if any, of our contracts have been found legally defective. The present staff of procurement officers in the Contract Branch have had years of successful experience in this field. Moreover, in accordance with administrative regulations, we are guided by the Armed Services Procurement Regulations and the implementing criteria and procedures of the Department of Defense which provide very exact instructions for the preparation, administration and settlement of contracts. No difficulty has been found in the handling of unnumbered contracts without legal review and there is at present no reason to believe that the contracts involving the same elements for larger sums of money would be any different.

3. Assuming the above considerations are sound, the Agency will derive measurable benefit by reducing the time necessary in processing such contracts and at the same time save the General Counsel's Office considerable work. This will permit more time and effort to be spent on contracts which for some reason vary from the norm.

4. If this request is approved, it is the intention of this office to continue to submit for legal review all contracts other than those of a standard supply nature. Further, it will submit supply contracts where there are questions, or exceptions to approved practice.

5. It might be added that the Contract Branch will shortly acquire two additional procurement officers from the Armed Services, who are thoroughly grounded in Government contract work. With an adequate staff and governed by established standards, the Contract Branch will be able to give ample attention to the conduct of its duties.

6. In view of the foregoing, it does not appear that there can be any abrogation of your responsibility by eliminating the legal review of those contracts where you have ascertained that all reasonable safeguards are provided to prevent an improper or illegal procurement action.

STATINTL